

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

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R 071244Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2422

INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 5854

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AEMR, CB, TH

SUBJECT: STATUS REPORT: EVACUEES TRANSITING THAILAND

REF: A. PHNOM PENH 5999; B. PHNOM PENH 6028; C. BANGKOK 5758;  
D. BANGKOK 5825; E. BANGKOK 5837; F. BANGKOK 5853; G. BANGKOK 5779

1. THIS IS THE FIRST OF A SERIES OF REPORTS ON THE STATUS OF EVACUEES TRANSITING THAILAND AS A RESULT OF THE SITUATION IN INDOCHINA. AS THE FIRST REPORT IT OUTLINES PREPARATIONS TAKEN THUS FAR FOR THE CARE OF EVACUEES IN EXCESS OF THOSE NUMBERS PLANNED FOR OPERATION EAGLE PULL.

2. SCOPE OF TASK. THE NUMBER OF POTENTIAL EVACUEES FROM PHNOM PENH REACHED ITS HIGH TOTAL OF 1172 ON MARCH 20 (REF. A). BY THE END OF APRIL 6 THE NUMBER WAS REDUCED TO 804 (REF. B) THROUGH THE EXTRACTION OF PERSONNEL VIA FIXED WING (PRIMARILY USAID) AIRCRAFT TO THAILAND, WHICH BEGAN IN EARNEST ON THURSDAY, APRIL 3. THE NUMBER IN EXCESS OF THOSE INCLUDED IN OPERATION EAGLE PULL IS IMPOSSIBLE TO CALCULATE, BUT COULD THEORETICALLY REACH THOUSANDS. AS OF END OF DAY APRIL 6, 53 AMERICAN U.S. GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES AND 342 KHMER AND OTHER NATIONALITIES HAD BEEN EVACUATED BY THE USG AND ENTERED THAILAND (REF. C, D, E). OTHERS HAVE ENTERED THAILAND ON THEIR OWN DURING THE PAST SEVERAL WEEKS.

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3. ORGANIZATION OF THE MISSION. ALL KEY ELEMENTS OF THE MISSION ARE INVOLVED IN THE PLANNING AND CARE OF EVACUATED AMERICAN GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES, AMERICAN CITIZENS, AND KHMER AND THIRD COUNTRY NATIONAL REFUGEES. OVER-ALL DIRECTION IS GIVEN THROUGH A TASK FORCE UNDER THE CHARGE.

4. LIAISON WITH RTG. THE FOREIGN MINISTRY IS BEING CONSULTED AND KEPT INFORMED PERSONALLY BY THE CHARGE; SUPREME COMMAND (FORWARD) BY THE ADCM AND MACHTAI.

5. TRAVEL DOCUMENTS AND VISAS. THE RTG HAS BEEN COOPEATIVE IN PROVIDING SPECIAL IMMIGRATION UNITS AND PUBLIC HEALTH PERSONNEL AT DON MUANG AND UTAPAO TO FACILITATE THE PROCESSING OF ARRIVING EVACUEES AND REFUGEES. THE RTG IS ISSUING VISAS GOOD FOR SEVEN DAYS WHICH IT HAS PROMISED TO RENEW. THE RTG HAS MADE CLEAR THAT EVACUEES ARE ADMITTED FOR TRANSIT ONLY. IN THE CASE OF THOSE WITHOUT PROPER DOCUMENTATION ENTRY IS BEING ALLOWED ON THE UNDERSTANDING THAT SUCH PERSONS' EXITS ARE ASSURED BY THE USG." SOME EARLY ARRIVALS ARE BEGINNING TO APPROACH THE SEVEN-DAY LIMIT, AND PROVISIONS MUST BE MADE FOR THEIR ONWARD TRAVEL. (REF. F.)

6. FACILITIES. EVACUEES ARE ARRIVING AT DON MUANG AIRPORT IN BANGKOK AND AT THE ROYAL THAI NAVAL BASE AT UTAPAO. RECEPTION CENTERS HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED AT DON MUANG AND UTAPAO AND A TEMPORARY CAMP OF TENTS NOW CAPABLE OF CARING FOR 1600 PERSONS HAS BEEN ERECTED AT UTAPAO BY JCRC.

7. FOOD STOCK (UTAPAO). CONSISTS OF PL-480 RICE FROM THE SUPPORT GROUPS AIRDROP STOCKS PLUS VEGETABLES, FRUITS AND MEAT PURCHASED ON LOCAL MARKET. WATER IS PROVIDED BY WATER TRAILERS. FIELD KITCHENS HAVE BEEN SET UP.

8. MEDICAL (UTAPAO). JCRC AID PEOPLE, THE UTAPAO BASE HOSPITAL AND SUPPORT BY MACT MEDDAC AND EMBASSY MEDICAL PERSONNEL.

9. TRANSPORTATION. PROVIDED BY JCRC, THE 635TH COMMAND AND SUPPORT GROUP, AND THE MACT SUPPORT GROUP.

10. FUNDING. INITIAL AUTHORIZATION OF \$10,000 IS BEING EXPENDED  
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AND THE EMBASSY HAS REQUESTED ADDITIONAL FUNDING. (REF. G.)

11. PRESS HANDLING. AMERICANS AND OTHERS COMING OUT OF PHNOM PENH ON U.S. SPONSORED FLIGHTS TO THAILAND HAVE THUS FAR ATTRACTED LITTLE ATTENTION. WE HAVE NOT GONE BEYOND ACKNOWLEDGING THAT THIS EMBASSY IS FACILITATING THE ARRIVAL FROM PHNOM PENH OF A RELATIVELY SMALL NUMBER OF AMERICANS AND OTHERS COMING TO BANGKOK TEMPORARILY. AFTER TODAY, AS COORDINATED WITH EMBASSY PHNOM

PENH, WE WILL REPLY THAT EMBASSY THERE HAS REDUCED STAFF TO THE  
ESSENTIAL NUMBER REQUIRED BY THE EMBASSY'S ON-GOING FUNCTIONS.  
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